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SUBJECT Report From CIA on Manual Discovered in Nicaragua

LOU WATERS: The CIA's Inspector General is investigating the Agency's controversial manual designed to teach Contra rebels how to overthrow Nicaragua's government.

Today, Democrats in the House and the Senate Intelligence Committees say the Reagan Administration is holding up the results of those investigations to avoid embarrassing the President before the election.

Mary Tillotson joins us now from our Washington studios with a report.

Mary?

MARY TILLOTSON: Lou, about three weeks ago, after word of that CIA manual on terrorist techniques to be used by the Contra rebels in Nicaragua surfaced in press reports, President Reagan put out a statement saying he is opposed to the sort of political assassination recommended in the manual, and also ordering two investigations of how the manual got produced.

The CIA Inspector General's office has now completed its investigation and sent its findings to the White House Intelligence Oversight Board for further review.

But, Democratic members of both the House and Senate Intelligence Oversight Committees, like Vermont's Senator Patrick Leahy, say they are now convinced the Administration will sit on the investigation findings until after the election.